Department of Homeland Security
Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection
Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 August 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is
ELEVATED
Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks
For info click here
www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The MetroWest Daily News reports the Middlesex Savings Bank, located in Natick, MA, was forced to shut down its website on August 23, after customers complained a hacker was keeping them from doing their banking. (See item 6)
- The Quad City Times reports the U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that about 76,000 pounds of fresh and frozen ground beef produced by J&B Meats Corp. of Coal Valley, IL, may be contaminated by E. coli and is being recalled. (See item 12)
- eSecurity Planet reports that a root exploit vulnerability in RealNetwork's Helix Universal Server 9 platform could potentially allow attackers to gain system access and execute arbitrary code. (See item 20)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) − http://esisac.com]

1. *August 25, Associated Press* — **Inspections ordered at 58 nuclear plants. Federal authorities, responding to a leaky nuclear reactor in Texas, have ordered inspections at 58 similar power plants across the country.** The problem was discovered in April during a refueling outage at the South Texas Project plant, located 90 miles southwest of Houston, TX. As part of an inspection, workers removed insulation from around the bottom of the reactor

pressure vessel and found residue of lithium−7 −− one of the chemicals in the reactor's coolant water −− indicating there had been a leak. **The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said the discovery was of added concern because most reactor operators don't remove the insulation when they conduct similar inspections during refueling outages, and therefore may miss similar signs of leakage.** Tests on the residue showed it was three to five years old. It is believed the leaks and cracks developed at junctions where various pipes and instrumentation enter the lower part of the reactor pressure vessel.
Source: http://www.startribune.com/stories/462/4059535.html

2. *August 22, Mountain Democrat (CA)* — **Hundreds of gallons of gasoline spilled.** While lining up his rig, a gas tanker driver ran into a valve that released hundreds of gallons of gas at the Gold Harvest Market in Shingle Springs, CA, on Thursday, August 21. It was estimated that 10 gallons a minute were leaving the 8,600−gallon capacity tank. **The leak was stopped later that day after losing 812 gallons onto the area around the gas station.** The leak stopped all normal activity in the market area during the morning commute, and a one−mile radius around the gas station was closed off as emergency crews attempted to assess, control and clean up the spill. Foam was sprayed on the leak, to keep the fumes from rising and to alleviate the fire danger.
Source: http://www.mtdemocrat.com/display/inn_news/H2208_N.txt

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Chemical Sector

3. *August 25, Associated Press* — **Police evacuate families after ammonia tank leak. Police evacuated more than a dozen families in Fountaintown, IN, on Monday after a 1,000−gallon tank of anhydrous ammonia began leaking a low−lying cloud of the toxic chemical, at Ag One, a farm cooperative.** Police rerouted traffic around Indiana 9 and U.S. 52 in the northern Shelby County town about 20 miles southeast of Indianapolis. No injuries were reported. **Ammonia, which is used as fertilizer, is stored in liquid form. But it turns into toxic gas when it makes contact with the air. It can cause suffocation and deep burns.** Officers from both Hancock and Shelby counties were dispatched to the leak at Ag One. The cloud restricted access for hazardous materials officers trying to stop the leak. Shelby County sheriff's officers evacuated more than a dozen families near the co−op to a church on the town's west side, said Jack Boyce, the county emergency management director. **Boyce said he was unsure if the leak was caused by mechanical failure or if someone had tried to get into the tank.**
Source: http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=1415457&nav=0RZFHdVp

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *August 25, Federal Computer Week* — **DoD experiment tests transformation.** The Department of Defense (DoD) will conduct an experiment this week testing network−centric warfare operations, a concept crucial to DoD's transformation. **The trial, called Quantum**

Leap, will occur August 27 and seeks to make intelligence quickly available to warfighters. The experiment is designed to validate new ways of transmitting, posting and accessing information. Department and industry officials say Quantum Leap is crucial for two reasons. First, it accelerates 12 software and data programs planned for 2004. Second, it fine−tunes the U.S. military's emerging strategy for network−centric warfare. DoD officials believe posting intelligence more quickly to a network, which warfighters could easily view to assist in making decisions, shortens the target identification−to−attack time gap.
Source: http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0825/news−DoD−08−25−03. asp

5. *August 24, New York Times* — **Rumsfeld seeking to bolster force without new G.I.'s. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, seeking to increase the nation's combat power without hiring more troops, is poised to order a sweeping review of Pentagon policies.** A senior Defense Department official said Rumsfeld would order the Pentagon's senior leadership, both civilian and military, to rethink ways to reduce stress on the armed forces, fulfill recruitment and retention goals and operate the Pentagon more efficiently. **Rumsfeld's latest thinking is encapsulated in a working paper, entitled "End Strength," which runs about a dozen pages and has already gone through four versions after discussions with his most senior circle of civilian and military advisers,** said officials who have seen the document. End strength is the military term for total force levels. A heated debate over end strength is expected after Congress returns from its recess in September. On one side is the risk that there will not be enough soldiers to carry out diverse missions or that troops will not re−enlist after exhausting assignments that degrade their quality of family life and do not leave enough time for training. That risk must be weighed, though, against the fact that money spent on personnel will not be available for new technology and modernizing the current arsenal.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/24/international/worldspecial /24TROO.html?th

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *August 24, The MetroWest Daily News (MA)* — **Bank site shut down after hackers attack.** The Middlesex Savings Bank, located in Natick, MA, was forced to shut down its website on Friday, August 23, after customers complained a hacker was keeping them from doing their banking. **Natick police received a call from a customer in the afternoon and notified the bank officials who were already aware of the problem.** The website was closed later in the day, said Sgt. Bob Dunlop. "It doesn't appear anything was affected," he said. "Somebody hacked into their webpage from the outside I think. It made it impossible for people from the outside to do their online banking." Dunlop said officers forwarded the information to the Secret Service for further investigation.
Source: http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/local_regional/nati_b ankshutdown08242003.htm

7. *August 23, New York Times* — **U.S. wants foreign leaders' laundered assets. Federal officials have developed a plan to seize financial assets laundered into the United States by foreign leaders whom they suspect of public corruption.** Federal agents at a newly created multiagency task force in Miami, FL, have opened nine investigations into allegations of foreign money laundering in six Latin American countries. The effort reflects an aggressive

new strategy to try to trace "dirty" money in the U.S. to its foreign roots. Agents in Miami have relied in part on expanded financial powers granted to them under the USA Patriot Act. Some provisions have given the government authority to seize foreign bank accounts in the U.S. in money−laundering cases and to pursue embezzlement and fraud cases overseas that previously might have been considered off limits to investigators. **Money laundered into American financial institutions by corrupt foreign leaders totals as much as $2 billion by some estimates, as they "park" their money in American banks, real estate holdings, securities and even insurance policies.**
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/23/politics/23CORR.html

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Transportation Sector

8. *August 25, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA screeners find hidden weapons during security searches; discoveries emphasize need for continued vigilance. Razor blades hidden in tennis shoes, an artificial leg hollowed out to hide a bayonet, and a handgun taped to the side of a similarly shaped drill are among the weapons that some passengers have recently tried to sneak past Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security screeners. "People who are tempted to discount the importance of screening need to think again," said Adm. James M. Loy, TSA Administrator. "Every day screeners are meeting the challenge of keeping flights secure, and all too often they are finding dangerous weapons that passengers are trying to take on flights."** Admiral Loy commented as security screeners at all of the nation's airports prepared to check every passenger and every bag over the long Labor Day weekend. Recently at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, a man tried to hide two razor blades in the insoles of his tennis shoes − underscoring why TSA has always emphasized screening shoes. **Since February 2002, TSA has intercepted more than 7.5 million items, including 1,437 firearms, 2.3 million knives and 49,331 boxcutters − the terrorists' weapon on 9/11.**
Source: http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=8&content=663

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.
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Agriculture Sector

9. *August 25, Canadian Press* — **Delays in shipping beef loom. Truckloads of Canadian beef won't be crossing a partially reopened American border on the initial target date of September 1. Permits to allow some cuts of boneless beef into the United States won't even be issued until after the Labor Day weekend, Ed Curlett, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That will serve to push back the beef industry's first step toward recovery from the mad cow crisis by several days and possibly longer.** Under new

regulations, Canadian food inspectors must certify that shipments to the U.S. come from cattle under 30 months of age, slaughtered at facilities that do not process older animals. No notification has been sent to U.S. customs officers telling them when to expect Canadian beef to roll across the border, said an American official. Canada's beef exporters, who have suffered more than $1 billion in losses since mad cow disease was confirmed in an Alberta black Angus breeder cow May 20, said a slight delay won't be a massive hardship after what the industry has already endured. **Under new regulations, Canadian food inspectors must certify that shipments to the U.S. come from cattle under 30 months of age, slaughtered at facilities that do not process older animals.**
Source: http://www.canoe.ca/EdmontonNews/es.es−08−25−0014.html

10. *August 21, OsterDowJones Commodity News* — **Russia's poultry quota may force U.S. to seek new markets. The new Russian quota on U.S. poultry is forcing U.S. exporters to seek out new foreign markets for chicken leg quarters, according to a U.S. analyst.** Tom Jackson, senior agriculture economist for Global Insight, said that while he does not believe the quota will significantly cut current U.S. exports, it is "capping any U.S. growth" to Russia, its largest foreign market. **Russia traditionally imports about one million metric tons per year of chicken leg quarters, a commodity with relatively smaller demand domestically because U.S. consumers generally prefer white meat. On May 2, Russia initiated the 781,800−metric−ton quota for U.S. poultry.** The National Chicken Council says that restriction will effectively be more severe, as ony 581,800 tons will apply to leg quarters. The rest will allow in other poultry products not normally exported by the United States.
Source: http://www.cropdecisions.com/show_story.php?id=20896

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Food Sector

11. *August 25, Food Production Daily* — **Milk protein to fight meat bacteria. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has said that it is safe to spray lactoferrin, a milk protein, on to beef carcasses to fight disease−causing bacteria such as E. coli 0157:H7. Scientists, with a Utah company, had found that spraying lactoferrin on raw beef carcasses inhibits the growth of E. coli, salmonella, and campylobacter and prevents them from attaching to meat surfaces. The company says it plans to sell lactoferrin, a naturally occuring protein found in milk.** The FDA issued its endorsement in response to a petition filed by the company asking the agency to affirm lactoferrin is safe for consumers. The company also submitted scientific data showing that use of lactoferrin is safe for individuals who are allergic to milk, the agency said in a statement. The amount of added lactoferrin that remains on the beef after spraying is comparable to the amount of lactoferrin that naturally occurrs in the beef.
Source: http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/news.asp?id=3330

12. *August 23, Quad City Times* — **Illinois company's meat may be tainted with E. coli. About 76,000 pounds of fresh and frozen ground beef produced by J&B Meats Corp. of Coal Valley, IL, may be contaminated by E. coli and is being recalled, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on Saturday.** The meats were produced May 30 and shipped to wholesalers nationwide. An E. coli illness in Wisconsin triggered an investigation by the

state health department and tests of J&B Meats ground beef proved positive for E. coli, a potentially deadly contaminant. So far there is no definitive link implicating the meat, which was voluntarily recalled, to any illness, the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service said.
Source: http://www.qctimes.com/internal.php?story_id=1016749&l=1&t=Iowa+%2F+Illinois&c=24,1016749

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Water Sector

13. *August 25, New York Daily News* — **New York City water tunnels face increasing vulnerability. Just two aging tunnels carry the 1.3 billion gallons of water New York City uses every day. Losing just one would be devastating.** No one can inspect the mammoth tunnels, which date back to 1917. During the 1950s, an attempt to turn off Tunnel 1 for repairs failed because of an aging valve. **The city is racing to build a new tunnel, Tunnel No. 3. But the project, started in 1970, won't be finished until 2020.** "Certainly we do face, over the years, a continued level of risk," Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) First Deputy Commissioner David Tweedy said. Still, Tweedy said the tunnels are "built in bedrock, and they're very stable." The possibility of a terrorist bombing also deeply concerns officials. **The loss of either tunnel would be catastrophic. Losing Tunnel 1 would cut off water to all of lower Manhattan, downtown Brooklyn and parts of the Bronx. "There would be no water," DEP chief Chris Ward said. "These fixes aren't a day or two. You're talking about two to three years."**
Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/front/story/111948p−101009c.html

14. *August 23, KSDK TV* — **Iliinois water company announces water shortage. More than 350,000 customers of the Illinois American Water Company are impacted by a system pushed to the limit.** The company is requesting water users in more than a dozen Metro East communities to cut back on their water use. The Illinois American Water Company issued a list of communities affected by what is being called a "challenging situation." **Affected residents are being asked to limit the use of water, especially for watering lawns, washing cars, or filling swimming pools. Other conservation measures are being encouraged as the company searches for the cause of unusually low pressure in a system that has dealt with extended heat before this recent wave.**
Source: http://www.ksdk.com/news/news_article_lc.asp?storyid=45805

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Public Health Sector

15. *August 25, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* — **Influenza vaccine supply ample.** Sufficient supplies of flu vaccine should be available during the coming influenza season. **The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicts that everyone wanting to get a flu shot to avoid influenza, regardless of age or health status, should be able to get vaccinated as soon as vaccine becomes available in October.** CDC estimates that vaccine manufactures will produce approximately 85.5 million doses of influenza vaccine during the

2003 influenza season. This projection represents 9.5 million fewer doses than were produced last year. However, influenza vaccine production is expected to exceed the estimated 79 million doses that were actually sold to providers in 2002. Influenza causes approximately 36,000 deaths and 114,000 hospitalizations each year. More than 90 percent of deaths occur among people older than 65.
Source: http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r030825b.htm

16. *August 25, HealthCentral.com* — **Colorado health officials trying to calm West Nile fears. Medical professionals and health insurers throughout Colorado are trying to educate the public about West Nile virus, hoping to stem unnecessary emergency room visits in the wake of the nation's worst outbreak of the disease.** While some reports say this year's outbreak in Colorado exceeds the total number of cases in all other states combined, officials say many of the ER visits and West Nile tests being ordered are unnecessary. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports 263 confirmed cases in Colorado. As many as eight residents have died from the mosquito−borne illness. In 2002, the state reported only 14 confirmed cases all year. The huge upswing in cases has Coloradans flocking to the doctor's office or emergency room for everything from a runny nose to unexplained aches and pains. **Kaiser Permanente says it's getting as many as 1,000 extra calls a day because of West Nile. And a small hospital in Canon City says it was flooded with more than 50 people with flu−like symptoms who visited its emergency room in a single week.**
Source: http://www.healthcentral.com/news/NewsFullText.cfm?id=150263 6

17. *August 22, BBC News* — **Computer virus hits hospital systems. Staff at a Glasgow, Scotland hospital worked round the clock to restore its computer systems after the network was struck by the Nachi worm. Medical records, which are stored electronically, became unusable, and staff had to switch to using the paper files they normally store in the hospital. The virus affected about 1,000 network devices, which included computers and printers. The virus only affected computers connected to the network, so did not cause problems with life support machines or other critical care systems.** A hospital spokesman said that the timing of the alert had been "quite fortunate" as it came as clinics were running down for the day. The Nachi worm tries to automatically apply the software patch issued by Microsoft to secure machines against the attentions of MSBlast. If it finds the MSBlast worm on a PC it removes the malicious program. However, experts say it can cause problems because it is untested, installs itself automatically, has the potential to cause compatibility problems and create lots of unwanted net traffic.
Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/3174173.stm

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Government Sector

18. *August 25, Associated Press* — **U.S. set to implement biometric technology at borders. Biometric technology that scans faces, fingerprints or other physical characteristics to confirm people's identities is about to get its biggest, most public test: at U.S. border checkpoints.** Yet significant questions loom about whether the U.S. and foreign governments can meet an October 26, 2004, deadline set by Congress for upgrading passports and visas to include biometrics. **With fingerprint and face scanners due to be in place at air and sea**

ports by the end of this year and biometric visas and passports beginning to get into the hands of travelers next year, U.S. officials hope to keep the wrong people out while letting the right people in without delay. Biometric visas and passports, certainly, will be harder to fake. The challenge will be to equip the millions who will need the new documents in order to enter the United States, and to upgrade computer systems at border crossings. These are complicated endeavors, and will cost billions. **The technology has been used for years to secure sensitive corporate and government facilities, and to help state motor−vehicle departments keep people from getting multiple licenses.**
Source: http://newsobserver.com/24hour/technology/story/978846p−6867 736c.html

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Emergency Services Sector

19. *August 25, Federal Computer Week* — **Florida firefighters test geolocation.** A central Florida county fire department is testing new technology that could help incident commanders track firefighters battling a blaze inside a building. **Although it's still early in the experimental phase, geolocation technology is promising, said members of the Orange County Fire and Rescue Department and company officials.** A recruit who became disoriented during a recent training fire exercise in Miami−Dade County died because fire officials couldn't find him in time, said Bill Godfrey, Orange County's deputy chief in charge of training and information technology. **Because of cost and risk factors, the technology is being tested in a live but controlled fire training environment.**
Source: http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/0818/web−fire−08−22−03. asp

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

20. *August 25, eSecurity Planet* — **Security Hole in RealNetwork's Helix Server.** Digital media company **RealNetworks has issued a warning for a root exploit vulnerability in its Helix Universal Server 9 platform. The security flaw could potentially allow attackers to gain system access and execute arbitrary code**. The vulnerability affects RealServer G2, RealSystem Server 7, RealSystem Server 8 and the Helix Universal Server 9.x. A patched version of the Helix Universal Server will be released soon, but as a temporary workaround users should remove the View Source plug−in from the /Plugins directory and restart the server process. Additional information is available on the RealNetwork's website: http://www.service.real.com/help/faq/security/rootexploit082 203.html
Source: http://www.esecurityplanet.com/trends/article.php/3068181

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels

 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/

Current Virus and Port Attacks

Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: **WORM_SOBIG.F** Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html, Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 80 (www), 137 (netbios−ns), 1434 (ms−sql−m), 445 (microsoft−ds), 1433 (ms−sql−s), 139 (netbios−ssn), 27374 (SubSeven), 38559 (−−−), 1243 (BackDoorG) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

21. *August 25, Reuters* — **Bombs kill at least 40 in Bombay, scores wounded. At least 40 people were killed and more than a hundred wounded Monday when two bombs exploded in the heart of India's financial capital Bombay, police said. It was not immediately clear who planted the bombs.** One exploded near the historic Gateway of India, a crowded monument in the tourist heart of the city, while the other exploded in a congested bullion market near a Hindu temple. Police official S.K. Tonapi told Reuters at least 40 people had been killed and more than 100 wounded. A state home ministry official told Reuters there had been four blasts around the city, but could not confirm that all were bombs. Police said they had confirmation of only two bombs. Bombay has been hit by a series of deadly bomb attacks in recent months. Three died in December when a bomb exploded on a bus; 12 were killed in March by a bomb on a rush−hour train and in July, two people were killed in a fresh bomb attack on a bus. Source: http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=33 30147

22. *August 25, Associated Press* — **Oregon wildfires force evacuations.** Two wildfires raging in central Oregon forced as many as 1,500 residents to flee their homes and spoiled President George W. Bush's plans for a forest tour. **Jefferson Wilderness burned a youth camp, closed a 21−mile (34−kilometer) stretch of highway over the Santiam Pass, and threw up a white−capped plume of smoke that towered over Central Oregon and spread a heavy swath of gray across the region.** Forecasters predicted good conditions for firefighting Friday, with rain falling over the mountains, temperatures cooling and humidity rising to 40 percent. The temperature topped 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 Celsius) on Thursday, with humidity as low as 15 percent. **Montana, where about three dozen blazes took a brief break Thursday, was expecting what one fire official called an "ugly" forecast Friday: more dry lightning and wind storms.** Similar storms earlier this week quadrupled the size of some fires and forced more evacuations, with several hundred homes still threatened. **So many new fires were started that some are being allowed to burn unchecked, officials said.** About 2.4 million

acres (nearly 1 million hectares) have been charred so far this wildfire season, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.
Source: http://www.fema.gov/press/ap/ap082503.shtm

23. *August 25, Associated Press* — **Chinese worker dies from WWII gas. A migrant worker became the first person to die from World War II−era mustard gas that escaped from five old barrels in northern China, sickening dozens, the government said Friday.** Li Guizhen died Thursday night at a military hospital in the northern city of Qiqihar, more than two weeks after he and 33 others were exposed to the chemical weapon, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The barrels were abandoned by Japanese troops in China at the end of the war and were recently dug up. Photos of Chinese workers blistered by the gas fueled renewed criticism over Japan's wartime atrocities. Japan's occupation of China remains a sensitive spot for many Chinese, and even today Beijing often invokes Japan's brutality during World War II. **Mustard gas causes severe skin blistering and breathing difficulties. Exposure for as little as 10 minutes can cause death.** Japan's Foreign Ministry issued a statement to express condolences to the victim and promised to continue efforts to clean up the dangerous leftovers from the war.
Source: http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/asiapcf/east/08/22/china.gas.a p/index.html

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DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web−site (http://www.nipc.gov), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

DHS/IAIP Warnings − DHS/IAIP Assessements, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

DHS/IAIP Publications − DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive − Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

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To report any incidents or to request information from DHS/IAIP, contact the DHS/IAIP Watch at nipc.watch@fbi.gov

or call 202−323−3204.

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